b) contacting the NMDA receptors of step a) with a neurotransmitter recognition site ligand in the presence and absence of a candidate modulator, wherein the candidate modulator is a steroid-based molecule; and

c) assaying for receptor activity following step b), wherein an increase or decrease in activity in at least one, but not all members of the plurality of NMDA receptors, in the presence but not the absence of a candidate modulator, is an indication that the candidate modulator is a subunit specific modulator.

2. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 further comprising comparing the subunit identity of the at least one NMDA receptor whose activity is increased or decreased to the members of the plurality of NMDA receptors whose activity is not increased or decreased to determine the subunit specificity of the candidate modulator.

E2 3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the identical NR2 subunits are selected from the group consisting of NR2A, NR2B, NR2C, and NR2D.

E3 4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the NR1 subunits is a chimeric isoform.

5. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 wherein assaying step c) is with an oocyte expression system.

6. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 wherein the neurotrasmitter recongition site ligand is an agonist.

7. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 6 wherein the agonist is selected from the group consisting of NMDA, glutamate, and glycine.

8. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 wherein the neurotrasmitter recognition site ligand is an antagonist.

E

9
32. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 wherein the candidate modulator is obtained from a library of small molecules.

10
33. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1 wherein the candidate modulator is a known neuromodulator.

E